

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

October 1, 2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 2<sup>nd</sup>- Running with the Dogs event at Dudley Rd Trailhead- 7 a.m.
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Art Walk Downtown Kilgore 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- October 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> – TML Conference Houston
- Oktober 16<sup>th</sup> – KILGORE OKTOBERFEST!!! 1 – 9 P.M. in Historic Downtown Kilgore

## PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- Meadowbrook Golf Course has received the 20 replacement leased golf carts.
- The Lazy Ranch Splash Pad is closed and has been winterized for the season.
- The Parks Crew has caught back up on the brush route after a slow down due to sickness.
- The Chili Cook-off banners have been hung downtown in preparation for the event in October.
- Public Works employees celebrated end of fiscal year with a bratwurst cookout in the City Yard.
- Public Works crews complete construction of a materials storage pad in the City Yard. The pad took over 100 yards of concrete and is the first step in organizing and improving our Public Works yard.
- Collection and Distribution crews noticed chlorine residuals dropping and determined that the culprit was aging water in the North Street tank. The tank was emptied. A workshop with the treatment and field teams set up a plan to investigate the cause of dropping residuals in the center of the city. There has been an increase in flushing to mix the water.
- Wastewater team is performing annual inspections of our industrial users under the guidance of our consultant.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Our radio building project is in its last phase and will soon house communications equipment for the city and Gregg County Sheriff's Office. Our collaborative program will greatly benefit the city when we transition to the 800 MHz radio frequency. Our partnership will save the city quite a bit money and benefit the region.
- KPD has totally revamped our recruitment process and we are looking at new ways to market KPD. There is a national critical shortage of officers and it impacts KPD too. Our process has been shortened from up to two months to less than a month. We are reaching out to other areas in an attempt to recruit more certified officers. This weekend we targeted the Shreveport area. We will have a written test in October for certified officers.
- KPD has several civilian applicants in the hiring process for Records Clerk and Dispatch.
- Both Sgt. Vance Callahan and Sgt. Joey Chitwood were recognized this month for 15 years at KPD.
- As Covid lingers, we are seeing a substantial increase in family violence assaults and mental health related calls. We believe it is the short-term effect of the virus and how it's impacting our citizens.
- Kilgore Rescue Unit attended the rope rescue with Kilgore FD.
- The Fire Department now has 4 part-time experience Firefighters on our payroll. This should help reduce overtime, and also provide trained personnel who can make an immediate contribution.
- The Fire Department, in association with the Fire Academy, conducted 3 days of Rope and Rescue Training. With so many new faces in our department, this was valuable information to ensure that we are providing all the necessary tools to keep our citizens and Firefighters safe.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- Development Services received 6 new home applications and 3 new home permits were issued.
- 40 total permits have been issued for the month of September.
- The next meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board is Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

## LIBRARY

- The Library received their accreditation for 2022 from the Texas State Library.
- The reading challenge, [A Carnival of Reading](#), has now begun.
- Monster Academy starts October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## QUALITY OF LIFE/TOURISM

- Final stages of Oktoberfest planning are underway. Oktoberfest will be October 16<sup>th</sup> downtown from 1 to 9p.m.
- The Shop Small Win Big Campaign begins October 31<sup>st</sup> and goes through November 27<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced during the Mingle and Jingle event.
- Kilgore will be hosting Chet the Daytripper and team in Kilgore next Thursday and Friday.
- Texas Travel posted a recent Visit Kilgore fall photo of Creekside Trail on their social media channels.

## Fire Dept. Rope and Rescue Training

